



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup
(508) 979-1410
Elizabeth.Treadup@ci.new-bedford.ma.us

Date: August 23, 2007
For Immediate Release

HEALTH ADVISORY

East Beach Temporarily Closed to Swimming

Due to Slightly Higher than Normal Enterococcus Bacteria Levels

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The New Bedford Health Department has issued a closure advisory for swimming at the public “East Beach,” located along East Rodney French Boulevard in New Bedford. The closure is limited to the area of East Beach from South Rodney French Boulevard (at the entrance of Fort Taber Park) along East Rodney French Boulevard to Portland Street. Water sampling results collected on August 22, 2007 show levels of Enterococcus bacteria slightly above the closure level in the East Beach swimming area. Warning signs have been posted at the swimming area. Lifeguards are advising the public to stay out of the water in accordance with the Massachusetts sanitary code. This closure does not affect the swimming beach at “West Beach,” which is located along West Rodney French Boulevard.

Since there is an increased risk of getting sick, the public is advised to avoid all contact with the water in this area until further notice. The public is advised to avoid swimming, wading, or water play where water could be swallowed or get into the mouth, nose, or eyes. The risk is greatest for young children, the elderly, or anyone with a compromised immune system.

The water at all city beaches is tested weekly. Additional samples were collected this morning and results will be available tomorrow morning. The beach will be reopened when samples show the concentration of Enterococcus bacteria has dropped to safe levels.

Additional information is available by calling the New Bedford Health Department at (508) 991-6290.

###